

THE TEACHING OF OUR SAVIOUR.

BY REV. DR. TURNBULL.

MEN often acknowledge the supremacy of God in the world of external or material forms, but deny it in that of interior and spiritual forces. They discern the action of his creative and renovating spirit in the seasons. Joyfully they sing, —

“ O God, thou art the life and light
Of all this wondrous world we see ;
Its glow by day, its smile by night,
Are but reflections caught from thee ;”

but they frequently close against him, both theoretically and practically, the domain of the soul, and deny the very possibility of a new creation, or renovation there. Hence their alienation and irreligion, even amid the forms and symbols of worship. Hence, also, their rejection of a profound spiritual religion, of real union with God, and that interior life fitly called divine.

But our Saviour aims, both by precept and example, to bring men to the practical acknowledgment of God's supremacy, not only in nature, but in the soul ; so that, spiritually, they may live in God, as God lives in them.

This is the true coming of the kingdom of heaven, not with outward movement, or mechanical force, but by inward life and spiritual control. “ The kingdom of God cometh not with observation ; neither do men say, Lo, here ! or Lo, there ! but the kingdom of God is within you.”

Christ does not despise the outward, except when it is forced into competition with the inward. On earth, he